



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mt. Rainier National Park

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2017 Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements and Other Restrictions
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

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Approved:

Randy King, Superintendent
June 21, 2017
Date

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7 (Included at the end of this document).

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), appear in this document identified by italicized print.

I. 36 CFR §1.5 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours:

- Visiting hours for certain facilities and roads have been established for Mount Rainier National Park. All current designations are posted on the park's website ([mora/visitinghours](#)).

Public Use Limits:

- Public use limits have been established for camping, climbing and hiking in non-developed areas. These special regulations are found in 36 CFR 7.5 (included at the end of this document).
- Drivers of commercial passenger carrying diesel fueled motor vehicles are prohibited from idling their engines in the parking areas of developed sites. The noise and fumes caused by these engines severely impacts the natural experience sought by many visitors.

Determining Factor: Diesel Fumes are toxic and the noise associated with idling passenger vehicles and buses adversely impacts the visitor experience and disturbs wildlife.

- All wild steelhead fish that are unmarked (identified by intact adipose fin) must be released. All other wild (unmarked) salmon species must be released. Fishing for bull trout and Dolly Varden is prohibited in all park waters; these species must be safely released if accidentally caught.

Determining Factor: These restrictions are mandated by the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §1531)

Closures

- The following National Park Service buildings and facilities are closed to the public without permission of the Superintendent or his/her designee:
 - All park residential areas (the Longmire historic district is open to public traffic)
 - All park administrative offices, ranger stations, shops and other work areas.
 - National Park Service maintenance yards and associated buildings.
 - Water treatment facilities
 - Sewage treatment facilities
 - Park helibase
 - Park weather stations
 - Backcountry patrol cabins
 - Fire lookouts
 - Any other service and administrative roads, so designated by signs and/or locked gates, or barricaded with logs and/or boulders.

Determining Factors: Residences are rented and occupied by National Park Service employees. Allowing visitor entry or use to these buildings would significantly disturb the privacy and disrupt the residential life of the occupants. The other buildings, facilities and locations are administrative sites used by the National Park Service in the management and administration of the park. Visitor entry or use of these sites without permission would interfere with the protection of government property, create potentially hazardous conditions for visitors, and interfere with park operations. Because these sites may be located in remote areas and/or staffed intermittently, it is not practical to expect park staff to provide for security and safety, and less restrictive measures will not suffice.

- Seasonal road closures are established and identified on the park's website ([mora/road-status](#)).

Determining Factor: Seasonal road closures are due to the hazards created by the high volume of snow received in those areas.

- Park roads and buildings are subject to temporary closure at any time for visitor safety.

Determining Factor: Storms, floods, avalanches, snow drifts, rock slides, repairs or construction activities, or other unforeseen events, may require temporary closure of park roads or facilities to protect public and employee safety. Road and facility closures will be posted on the park's Twitter site.

- During snow plowing operations or when otherwise posted, park roads are closed to all use, including hiking, skiing, snowmobiles and bicycling

Determining Factor: These closures are established to protect visitors and equipment operators and are the minimum restrictions necessary to achieve such protection.

- The following areas are closed to picnicking:
 - Concessioner facilities except the dining area of the Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center on a space available basis
 - Residential areas, except by park residents and their guests

Determining Factor: Concessioner facilities and residential areas are not intended to accommodate picnicking for the general public who are not customers or residents, and conflict with the intended uses of these areas.

- Rappelling, bungee jumping, base jumping or other similar activities are not permitted from any man-made structures.

Determining Factor: This restriction is established to provide for visitor safety and to avoid conflict with other user groups and is the minimum necessary to achieve such results.

- The following waters are closed to fishing:
 - Ghost Lake
 - Edith Creek Basin above the Paradise water supply
 - Please refer to § 7.5 for other closures

Determining Factor: These closures were established to protect the domestic potable water supply for White River and Paradise and are the minimum necessary to achieve such protection.

- The following waters are closed to boating, including inflatable rafts with side walls:
 - Reflection Lakes
 - Tipsoo Lakes

Determining Factor: These are heavily visited areas of the park. A boating closure is intended to protect shoreline and aquatic resources and the quality of the visitor experience at these locations and are the minimum necessary to achieve such protection.

- The Butter Creek Research Natural Area (RNA) is closed to public use except pursuant to a scientific research permit. See reference map in the Park's General Management Plan.

Determining Factor: RNA's are part of a national network of sites designed to facilitate research and preserve natural features. RNAs are usually established in a typical example of an ecological community type, preferably one having been little disturbed in the past and where natural processes are not unduly impeded. This tract is set aside permanently and is managed exclusively for approved non-manipulative research; i.e., research that measures, but does not alter, existing conditions.

- Please refer to §3.21 of this compendium for swimming and bathing closures.
- All areas of the park are closed to the use of elk bugles, varmint calls, audio attractants, or other artificial or natural means of attracting or disturbing wildlife (including rattling antlers and verbal bugling imitations) except as otherwise authorized as part of an approved research or resource management activity.

Determining Factor: This closure is established to protect wildlife from harassment and is the minimum restriction necessary to achieve such protection.

- Wilderness

National Park wilderness, including trails, is closed to the possession or use of any machine, conveyance, device or vehicle activated and propelled by a motor, engine, or other non-living power source. The use or possession of these, and all other forms of mechanical transport in Wilderness, are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, cars, trucks, all-terrain vehicles (ATV), motorcycles, aircraft, snow machines, motorboats, chain saws, weed whackers, power drills, power saws, generators, compressors, windmills or turbines, and snow or leaf blowers.

National Park wilderness, including trails, is closed to the possession or use of any contrivance for moving people or material in or over land, water, snow or air that has moving parts, that provides a mechanical advantage to the user, and is powered by a living or non-living power source for the preservation of wilderness character. This includes, but is not limited to, non-motorized wheeled vehicles, conveyances and devices, such as bicycles, Segways™ and other Electric Personal Assistance Mobility Devices (EPAMD), carts, game carriers, canoe dollies, wheel barrows, wagons, strollers, ski kites, sailboats/boards, hang gliders and paragliders. Wheelchairs as defined in Title V Section 507(c) of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be used by persons with disabilities.

Determining Factor: The Wilderness Act 1964 prohibits these uses in designated wilderness. Allowing such use would place the park in violation of the Wilderness Act.

- Unmanned Aircraft

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park service within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park is prohibited, except as approved in writing by the superintendent. **36 CFR § 1.5(a)(1); 36 CFR § 1.5(f)**

The term “unmanned aircraft” means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, and drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

Determining Factors: This restriction is to protect the public from hazards and preserve the park's natural, aesthetic, and scenic values. The use of unmanned aircraft devices, such as Unmanned Aircraft Systems, (UAS) or drones, has the potential to interfere with public safety by posing an in-flight hazard to other legal aircraft use in the park. The use of these devices also has the potential to disrupt wildlife by interrupting migration, nesting, mating, and hunting activities to include, but no limited to protected species such as the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, and Peregrine Falcon, as well as native birds and mammals. This restriction is in accordance with NPS Management Policy 8.2 which prohibits recreational uses that conflict with the scenic, natural, and historic values the park was designated to protect, and the associated activities in which individuals seek solitude and tranquility with an expectation of privacy. 97% of Mount Rainier National Park is designated Wilderness. Launching and landing of UAS's in the park can invite violations to the Wilderness Act, which prohibits the operation of motorized vehicles or mechanized transport.

(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:

Paradise Parking:

- The upper parking lot at Paradise is restricted to day use and disabled parking only and is intended for short term use.
- Guests of the Paradise Inn may park overnight in the designated Inn parking area.
- Parking in the lower Paradise lot is intended for visitors staying longer than a few hours and for those hiking in the Paradise area. When the upper Paradise lot is full, short-term visitors may also use the lower lot.
- Overnight parking for visitors with backcountry permits, climbing permits and winter camping permits along with overflow parking for Inn guests is allowed in the lower parking lot and the Paradise Picnic Area. The Picnic Area is the preferred overnight parking location during the summer and fall. Possession of one of the aforementioned permits is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in these areas. Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10)).
 - Additional parking for day use and overnight visitors is available along the one-way Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot. Motorhomes, RVs, and vehicles towing trailers must park along the Paradise Valley Road, east of the upper Paradise lot.

Determining Factors: Limited parking exists in the Paradise area to meet visitor needs. Overnight parking in the upper lot greatly reduces parking for day users attempting to access the

Paradise facilities. By restricting overnight parking for permit holders to the Paradise Picnic Area or lower lot, it allows for better traffic management of the area and provides for more efficient and safe snow removal during winter. If you are visiting Paradise on a nice day be prepared for heavy traffic, busy parking lots, and pedestrians on the roadway. Due to the popularity of the Paradise area, you are asked to park your vehicle in certain lots depending on the intent of your visit and the type of vehicle you are driving. Please drive courteously and help improve traffic flow.

Seasonally Closed Roads:

- Roads gated and closed to motor vehicles for the winter due to snow become backcountry use areas for management purposes.

Snow Play Area:

- Snow play is defined as sliding on any device such as a flexible sled, an inner-tube, saucer, plastic/fiberglass toboggan, or similar manufactured or improvised device. Hard toboggans, runner sleds or sliding devices with metal runners or edges are prohibited.
- Snow play is allowed only in the designated constructed snow play area at Paradise.
- The Superintendent will establish the opening and closing dates for snow play. Snow play is not allowed prior to or after the established dates.
- Skiing and snowboarding are prohibited in the designated snow play run(s) and designated walkways.
- Snow play may be terminated at any time to protect visitor safety or t natural resources.

Determining Factors: Snow play is only allowed within the designated area at Paradise to reduce visitor injuries on otherwise hazardous terrain. The designated area also serves to best protect meadow vegetation and other natural resources from sledding and grooming equipment impacts once a sufficient minimum snow depth is attained across the area. This shelters underlying resources from construction and use of the snow play run(s). This minimum snow depth can vary depending upon the character of the underlying vegetation and must be uniform across the area to support grooming equipment before snow play can open.

Camping

- Front-country camping, which by definition includes sleeping inside a vehicle, is restricted to designated campsites in established campgrounds and backcountry camping is allowed in accordance with the terms and conditions listed under §2.10 of this compendium.
- Camping is prohibited in all parking areas, roadside pullouts, picnic areas, trailheads or any other area not designated as a campsite.
- Please refer to §2.10 of this compendium for additional camping information including winter camping area designations.

Determining Factors: These restrictions are in place to reduce resource damage, sanitation and litter issues, food storage issues, illegal campfires, and other negative impacts caused by out of bounds camping as well as improve visitor safety.

Roads:

- During the winter season, November 1 through May 1, the Longmire-Paradise Road uphill lane of travel above Longmire is closed to all visitor traffic when the uphill gate is closed at Longmire, or

as otherwise posted. When the downhill and uphill Longmire gates are closed, the entire Longmire-Paradise Road above Longmire is closed to all visitor traffic except in emergencies.

- Due to public safety concerns, the Longmire-Paradise Road may be closed at the Longmire gate based on degraded environmental conditions or insufficient staffing to provide for snow removal and emergency services.
- From November 1 through May 1, all vehicles must carry tire chains on the Nisqually Road to Paradise when traveling above the Nisqually Entrance. Law Enforcement Rangers may prohibit any vehicle from driving above the Nisqually Entrance when it is determined that the vehicle may have difficulty safely traveling the area. Tire snow socks, “autosocks” or any other alternative traction device approved by the state of Washington may be carried and used in place of tire chains to meet park tire chain requirements (<http://www.wsp.wa.gov/traveler/traction.htm>).
- When traffic control signs are posted, it is unlawful for any vehicle to enter the controlled area without having mounted on its drive tires the traction device specified by the sign, which must also meet the requirements of Washington State Administrative Code (WAC) 204-24-040 (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=204-24>). When “Chains Required” signs are posted, all-wheel drive and four-wheel drive vehicles shall be exempt from the chain requirement when all wheels are in gear and are equipped with approved traction devices as specified in WAC 204-24-040 provided that tire chains for at least one set of drive tires are carried in the vehicle.

Determining Factors: Mount Rainier is home to one of the world’s most extreme winter environments with Paradise typically receiving more than 600 inches of snowfall per year. Highly variable and sometimes impassable or unsafe road conditions are the result. Road closures, traction tire or tire chain requirements are necessary to enhance visitor safety. The nightly closure of the gate at Longmire during winter driving conditions helps protect visitors and the snow plow operators who maintain road access to Paradise.

Hiking:

- Where trails are no longer obscured by snow, hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail tread or walkways in the following areas:
 - Paradise
 - Sunrise
 - Tipsoo Lakes meadow area
 - Ohanapecosh Hot Springs area

Determining Factors: These are the most heavily visited areas of the park, and all but Ohanapecosh are located within subalpine zones with extremely short growing seasons and include vegetation easily damaged by trampling. This restriction is intended to prevent resource damage from off-trail hiking and protect the places people enjoy visiting.

II. 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:

- §2.4(d) Carry or possess a weapon, trap or net with the exception of firearms allowed under Section 512 of Public Law 111-24
- §2.5(a) Specimen collection of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, minerals or fossils
- §2.10(a) Camping in developed areas
- §2.12(a)(2) Operating a chainsaw

- §212(a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine or device powered by a portable motor or engine in nondeveloped areas
- §212(a)(4) Operation of public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51
- §2.17(a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means
- §2.17(c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft
- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods or services
- §2.38(a) Use, possess, store, or transport explosives, blasting agents or explosive material
- §2.50(a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony or similar event
- §2.51(a)* Permitted public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, sale, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views.
- §2.52(a)* Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising.

* Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in the Interim rule to 36 CFR 2.52 published in the Federal Register / Vol. 75, No. 201 on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 are not required to have a permit for activities listed in §2.51(a) and §2.52(a)

- §2.62(b) Memorialization (scattering ashes from human remains)
 - See §2.62(b) of this compendium for conditions and locations
- §4.11(a) Exceeding established vehicle load, weight and size limits
- §5.1 Advertisements (display, posting or distribution)
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations)
- §5.5(a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television.
- §5.5(b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.
- §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads
- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, paths, structures, etc.
- §5.10(a) Operation of eating, drinking or lodging establishments on private lands
- §6.9(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site
- Part 7 Special Regulations
- §7.5(b) Climbing and hiking on glaciers or above the designated high camps
- §7.5(c) Backcountry camping

For permit information, please contact the park at (360) 569-2211 or visit the park website at: <https://www.nps.gov/mora/planyourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm>

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

(b) Hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail or walkway as listed in Section 1.5 of this document.

(c)(1), (c)(2) The following fruits, nuts berries or unoccupied seashells may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:

- Blueberries, highbush cranberries, gooseberries, salmonberries, blackberries, thimbleberries, serviceberries and strawberries
- Edible fungi (mushrooms)
- Collection of the above is for personal use or consumption and shall be no more than one (1) gallon per person, per day.

Determining Factor: The gathering or consumption of a limited amount of berries and edible fungi has been determined to not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of the plant species or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

36 CFR §2.2 – WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(a)(2) Recorded animal calls or other sounds used to attract or dispel wildlife are restricted as listed in section 1.5 of this document.

(d) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:

- Legally taken and properly tagged and identified wildlife may be transported through the park on the following roads or trails:
 - From park boundaries to park residences for park residents only.
 - Highway 410/123 when open to through traffic.
 - When other means or access are impractical or impossible, and with prior approval by a park ranger, through those sections of the Pacific Crest Trail within the park that provides access to otherwise inaccessible and contiguous USFS lands or waters.
- Wildlife so transported shall be completely covered or otherwise kept out of view.
- Persons transporting legally taken game must possess a valid state hunting license.
- Park law enforcement staff is authorized to check any wildlife so transported for adherence to these conditions and state regulations that apply.
- Wildlife wounded outside the park during a legal hunt, which subsequently comes into the park, may only be pursued and retrieved from the park by the hunter who wounded the animal after receiving permission from the Superintendent or designee and only if accompanied by a park law enforcement ranger. Contact Park Dispatch at (360) 569-6600 for assistance.

Determining Factors: Since hunting is not allowed within the park, the Superintendent has determined it is prohibited to transport legally taken wildlife within the park except for the limited circumstances outlined above. For the safety of park visitors and staff and the protection of park resources, the Superintendent has authorized the retrieval of wildlife wounded legally outside the park which subsequently enters into the park only if the hunter who wounded the animal is accompanied by a park law enforcement ranger.

(e) All park areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light (this prohibition includes both visible light and infrared light).

36 CFR §2.4 – WEAPONS, TRAPS AND NETS

(d) A permit is required to possess a weapon, trap or net with the exception of firearms allowed under Section 512 of Public Law 111-24. The Superintendent will only issue a permit under the following conditions:

- When necessary to support approved/permitted research activities.
- To persons in charge of pack trains or saddle horses for emergency use.
- For employees, law enforcement officers, agents or cooperating officials for official duty.
- When providing access for lawfully taken wildlife as stated in §2.2(d) of this document.

(h) In accordance with Section 512 of Public Law 111-24, persons possessing firearms within Mount Rainier National Park must comply with the firearms laws of the State of Washington and any applicable Federal Law. Within the park, the following buildings are designated as “federal facilities” and shall be signed to indicate that firearms are prohibited inside these buildings in accordance with [18 USC 930](#):

- Tahoma Woods Area: Headquarters Building, Education Center, Greenhouse, Curatorial Facility
- Nisqually Area: Fee Management Office, Fee/Entrance Station, Nisqually (Superintendent) House, Maintenance building.
- Kautz Creek Area: SAR/Aviation Building
- Longmire Area: Longmire Museum, Wilderness Information Center/Longmire Administration Building, Wilderness Ranger Office, Tobin Center, Macy Dorm, Emergency Operations Center, Warehouse, Auto Shop, Radio Shop, Roads and Sign Shops, Carpenter Shop, Buildings and Utilities Shops, Community Building, National Park Inn, Cougar Rock Campground Office, any other government shops/offices not listed.
- Paradise Area: Jackson Visitor Center, Climbing Information Center, Ranger Station, Paradise Inn.
- Ohanapeocosh Area: Ohana Visitor Center, Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Trail Crew Building, Stevens Canyon Fee/Entrance Station
- Camp Muir Area: Ranger Station
- Camp Shurman Area: Ranger Station
- White River Area: WR Wilderness Information Center, Ranger Station, Maintenance Shop, Fee/Entrance Station, WR Campground Office.
- Sunrise Area: Sunrise Visitor Center, Sunrise Day Lodge.
- Carbon River Area: Carbon River Ranger Station
- All park water and sewage treatment facilities
- All backcountry patrol cabins and fire lookouts.
- Any other building so identified by a sign on the entrance notifying that firearms are not allowed inside in accordance with 18 USC 930.

Determining Factors: Federal facilities are buildings or parts thereof owned or leased by the Federal Government, where Federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing official duties. 18 USC 930 is Federal law that supersedes Section 512 of Public Law 111-24 and prohibits the possession of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a Federal facility unless specifically authorized. All concession facilities within the park are owned by the National Park Service and various park employees routinely perform work functions within those facilities.

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

(a) The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

- Camping is limited to 14 consecutive days in any campground in developed areas, or five consecutive days in Wilderness areas; camping is limited to no more than 28 cumulative days per calendar year in all areas of the park.

Developed Campgrounds:

Campgrounds are established in the following developed areas and have a permit system posted in the campground:

- Cougar Rock Campground
- Ohanapecosh Campground
- White River Campground
- Mowich Lake walk in Campground

The following conditions apply to camping in developed areas:

- Camping must be done within the design capacity of each site with a maximum of two (2) tents and six (6) people (or immediate family) per individual campsite.
- Vehicles may only be parked in designated parking spaces/sites. No more than two (2) vehicles per site. An RV is considered one vehicle. Trailers are not considered a vehicle. Additional vehicles must be parked in designated overflow parking areas in each campground.
- Use of group sites is restricted to groups of 12 or more.
- Quiet hours for all developed camping areas are from 9 P.M. to 7 A.M.
- Where authorized, operational hours for generators in developed campgrounds are limited to 8 A.M. – 10 A.M., 12 P.M. – 2 P.M., and 5 P.M. – 7 P.M.
- The following areas are closed to generator use at all times:
 - Cougar Rock Campground Loop E
 - Ohanapecosh Campground Loop E
 - White River Campground Loop A

Determining Factor: Generator free zones are established to provide ambient quiet in some camping areas for those visitors who want to experience camping in the park uninterrupted by the noise created by generators.

Wilderness:

- Campers in non-developed areas are required to have a permit as required by 36 CFR 7.5(c).
- All campers are required to adhere to conditions set forth by the park's Wilderness Permit System (see 36 CFR 7.5 (c)(1) and (c)(2)).

Winter Camping:

- Maximum party size is limited to 12 persons and a backcountry permit is required.
- When and where snow depth exceeds 2' at the camp site, camping is permitted in the undeveloped areas throughout the park from October 1 to May 14, excluding the Paradise Day Use Management Zone as noted below.
- General park wide winter camping is permitted 200' or more beyond roads and a minimum of 300' from lakes, streams and other wetlands.
- Paradise Day Use Management Zone (that zone surrounding Paradise which is excluded from within the Wilderness boundary):
 - When snow depth exceeds 5' measured at the NOAA weather station, winter camping is permitted with a backcountry permit.

- Camping is permitted 300' or more beyond buildings, roads, established winter trails and the designated snow play runs.

Determining Factors: Winter camping regulations are established to protect sensitive park resources covered by snow, to preserve visitor experience of solitude during the winter season, and to avoid visitor use conflicts between the various activities that take place in these zones.

(d) Conditions for the storage of food, lawfully taken fish or wildlife, garbage and equipment used to cook or store food are in effect as follows:

- Within all park areas including camp grounds, picnicking and residential areas year around all food, lawfully taken fish, garbage and equipment used to store food (e.g., ice chests) must be stored in one of the following ways:
 - Inside a vehicle with all doors, windows and trunk lids closed, OR
 - Inside a camping unit that is constructed of solid non-pliable material, OR
 - Inside a building, OR
 - In developed campgrounds, inside a food storage locker where provided, OR
 - Garbage and recyclables must be placed in park provided containers, dumpsters or collection stations.
- For purposes of this section, food is defined as items to be consumed, drinks, pet food, toiletries and soaps. Garbage is defined as food wastes, empty food containers, trash and recyclables.
- This restriction does not apply to food that is being transported, consumed or prepared for consumption.
- In backcountry sites, April through October, campers must use the provided food storage poles, approved bear resistant canisters or proper hanging procedures.
- When winter camping in the Paradise winter camping zones from October 1 through May 14, all food and garbage is required to be stored in a hard-sided storage container.
- The use of bird feeders (seed and hummingbird) is considered improper food storage and is prohibited per §2.2(a)(2).

Determining Factors: Food storage restrictions are necessary to prevent wildlife habituation due to food or garbage attractants. Drawing wildlife into areas frequented by people creates public safety hazards, sanitation problems, and endangers wildlife.

36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING

Picnicking is prohibited in concessioner facilities and park residential areas with exceptions as listed in Section 1.5 of this document.

All picnic areas within the park are closed to camping and overnight parking unless otherwise posted.

36 CFR §2.13 – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited except as provided for in the following designated areas or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

- The Superintendent may temporarily restrict fires in specific areas of the park during periods of poor air quality or during ongoing park aviation and SAR operations.
- Fires are permitted only in developed area campgrounds, picnic areas, and campsites where fire rings or grills are provided by the park.

- Fires are permitted in National Park Service permanent residential areas, by residents and their guests, within portable grills, park established fire grates or fire rings or in receptacles such as portable outdoor pits that fully contain the fire and are located within the yard immediately surrounding the residence.
 - Within the Longmire Historic District residents may only have a fire in the one provided communal fire ring. All other fires are prohibited.
 - New fire rings may not be constructed in park residential areas without the permission of the Superintendent.
- Fires must be fully contained within established fire grills, grates or rings. No bonfires (large fires that spill outside the fire receptacle, use stacks of highly flammable material such as cardboard boxes or wood pallets or have excessive flame heights that could easily become uncontrolled) are allowed.
- Fires will be constantly monitored while burning and will be completely extinguished after use.
- Self-contained gas and charcoal grills/stoves are allowed. Charcoal must be fully extinguished with water and removed from the park or disposed of in a garbage receptacle when cold.
- Visitors may use only firewood acquired from an approved vendor within Mount Rainier National Park or firewood purchased or brought from sources less than 50 miles from where it will be burned.

Determining Factors: Campfire use is a traditional activity in campgrounds and in picnic areas. Washington forests are in jeopardy from the transportation of invasive insects, such as Emerald Ash borer and diseases in firewood. New infestations of tree-killing insects and diseases often are first found in campgrounds and parks. Wood that looks clean and healthy can still have tiny insect eggs, or microscopic fungi spores, that will start a new and deadly infestation. To make sure invasive insects are not spread on firewood, use firewood from local sources within 50 miles of where wood is planned to be burned.

(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:

- All fires must be completely extinguished with no burning material remaining.
- Fires will be considered out when all burnable materials are cold to the touch.

(c) High fire danger closures will be in effect as noted:

- As posted during periods of extreme fire danger, Mount Rainier National Park may adopt the burning and fire restrictions in effect on adjacent USFS lands.

36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION AND REFUSE

(a)(2) Conditions for using government refuse receptacles or other refuse facilities:

- Household trash generated by authorized camping activities may be placed in receptacles designed for that purpose in developed campgrounds. In all other instances, the dumping of commercial, household, or industrial refuse, brought in from private or municipal property, in government receptacles is prohibited.

(a)(5) Designated areas for bathing and washing:

- No designated areas. Unless otherwise allowed by the Superintendent, bathing and washing of cooking utensils, food and other property at all public water outlets, fixtures, or pools is prohibited.

Washing of dishes in campgrounds is restricted to any provided waste disposal sinks or should be accomplished through the use of dish pans or buckets at the campsite. Gray water should be captured and disposed of in any provided waste sinks, drains or in sewage dump stations.

(b) Conditions for the disposal, containerization or carryout of solid human body waste have been established for the following:

- No human waste may be deposited less than 200 feet from surface water.
- Human waste must be buried in at least a six (6) inch deep hole.
- Toilet paper and refuse must be packed out as trash.
- Hikers and climbers above the tree line, and winter group campers at Paradise, are required to remove and properly dispose of their own solid human waste and associated waste products.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Leashed pets are permitted only in picnic areas, campgrounds and parking lots and within 25 feet of roads currently open to public vehicles. Pets are prohibited in non-developed areas, park buildings and facilities (with the exception of service or working law enforcement or search animals) and on all trails except the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). Pets on the PCT must be leashed per NPS regulations at all times.

(a)(3) Designated areas and conditions for leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object:

- No designated areas. No conditions established. Leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:

- Pet owners must remove and properly dispose of all solid pet excrement.

(e) Pets may be kept by park employees under the following conditions:

- Pets may be kept by park employees as provided for in the Employee Pet Policy and the Housing Management Plan

Determining Factors: Since pets are usually concentrated in the campgrounds and public areas of Mount Rainier N.P., excrement must be removed to prevent health hazards to people and to lessen negative impacts on wildlife. Consistent with public health and safety, protection of natural resources and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. Pets are not considered compatible with the broad park goal of minimal resource impact. Pets do not readily adapt to unknown surroundings, persons, or other animals. It is recognized that pets are a common possession of park visitors, and provisions are made for them where they do not jeopardize basic park values. Resident employees are subject to these regulations and may keep pets only in accordance with the park's pet policy.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

(a) The following animals are designated as pack animals for the purposes of transporting equipment:

- Horses, mules, burros, and llamas

(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes or areas:

- Pacific Crest Trail (PCT)
 - Parties on the PCT are restricted to a combined total of 12 people and stock (12 heartbeats total).
- Laughingwater Creek from Highway 123 to the PCT near Carlton Pass.
 - No more than five (5) head of stock per party on the Laughingwater Creek Trail.
- Camping with pack animals is restricted to Three Lakes Camp.
 - Stock must be hitched to posts or high lines at Three Lakes Camp.

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:

- The Superintendent may temporarily close any trail to stock use due to current trail conditions
- No grazing is allowed and only feed pellets are authorized.
- Possessing, storing or transporting any hay, straw, mulch, or forage, which has not been certified as free of noxious weeds and seeds by a certified Washington State Dept. of Agriculture's Plant Services Program, is prohibited within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park. Any certified bale of hay, straw, mulch, or forage should be covered.
- Possessing, storing, or transporting either certified or non-certified weed free forage beyond any park trailhead is prohibited within the boundaries of Mount Rainier National Park.

Determining factor: Invasive plants can be introduced to park wilderness via non-certified hay, mulch, straw, and raw feeds. Invasive plants out-compete native plants, degrade wildlife habitat, and reduce soil and water quality. They cause economic losses in natural areas and impact aesthetics and recreation opportunities.

Definitions:

Forage - Includes hay, straw, or mulch.

Noxious weeds - Those weeds, including any weed seed or propagative plant parts, any invasive, non-native plant that threatens agricultural crops, local ecosystems or fish and wildlife habitat designated by State Noxious Weed Control Board adopts, by rule ([WAC 16-750](#)), as noxious and where control will be required in Washington State.

Noxious weed-free hay and straw - Free of mature seed heads or propagating parts of any weeds on the Washington noxious weed list or the North American Weed Management Association's list.

Weed free certification - Assurance that the field was inspected based upon a reasonable and prudent visual inspection, and no noxious weeds were detected by Washington State Department of Agriculture's Plant Services Program or neighboring State Department of Agriculture. Commercially processed feed pellets and steamed, rolled grains are considered weed-free feed and do not need additional certification.

36 CFR §2.17 – AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is subject to procedures established by the Superintendent through written authorization.

36 CFR §2.18 – SNOWMOBILES

(c) Snowmobiles may be operated only on routes designated in section 7.5(d).

- Snowmobiles must stay within the road prism on the designated routes.

36 CFR §2.19 – WINTER ACTIVITIES

(a) Areas designated for skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, sledding, inner tubing, tobogganing and similar winter sports on park roads and parking areas open to motor vehicle traffic:

- Winter activities listed are prohibited on all roads and parking areas open to motor vehicles. See Snow Play under 1.5 for designated areas and conditions.

(b) Areas designated for towing of persons on skis sleds or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile:

- No areas designated. The towing of persons on skis, sleds, or other sliding devices by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

Using roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, scooters or similar devices is prohibited except in designated areas as follows:

- By park residents and their guests in employee residential areas that are not open to the public.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking:

- The smoking of cigarettes, cigars, pipes and the use of E-Cigarettes or Vapor Cigarettes or similar devices is prohibited in all government buildings, structures or facilities with the exception of some residences as noted in the Park's Housing Management Plan.
- Smoking is also prohibited within 25 feet of entrances, exits, windows that open, and ventilation intakes that serve enclosed areas where smoking is prohibited.

Determining Factors: This prohibition is necessary to reduce the risk of fire in historic public use buildings, reduce the health hazards of secondhand smoke or other harmful substances to visitors, and prevent conflicts between smokers and nonsmokers. Washington Revised Code RCW 70.160.075, enacted November 8, 2005, prohibits smoking within a presumptively reasonable minimum distance of twenty-five feet from entrances, exits, etc. of enclosed areas closed to smoking. The above articulated restriction is consistent with current state law.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:

- Visitors on permitted backcountry or climbing trips are allowed to leave vehicles unattended in approved parking locations for the duration of their trip.
- In the Paradise area, overnight parking for vehicles of visitors on permitted backcountry, climbing and winter camping permits is only allowed in the Paradise Picnic Area and lower parking lot. The upper parking lot is for day use parking only. Possession of a permit is required for a vehicle to be parked overnight in the picnic area or lower lot. Camping within a vehicle is not allowed (see 36 CFR 2.10(b)(10))

36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activities, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

Park Entrance Fee Required:

- Parkwide for recreational use of park lands and facilities
- With the exception of through traffic on Highways 410 and 123 which is exempt from entrance fees.

Entrance Fee Collection Areas:

- Nisqually Entrance
- Stevens Canyon Entrance
- White River Entrance
- Carbon River Entrance
- Mowich Lake Entrance
- Ohanapecosh Campground

Daily Site Use Fee Areas:

- Cougar Rock Campground
- Ohanapecosh Campground
- White River Campground
- Mowich walk-in Campground

Wilderness Camping Fees:

- There are currently no fees for wilderness camping; however, there is a fee for advance reservations of wilderness camp sites.

Climbing Permit Fees:

- There is an annual climbing pass cost recovery fee collected under the authority of 31 U.S.C. 9701.

All current fees are posted on the park website (www.nps.gov/mora).

Employee vehicle entrance permits:

- A free entrance permit is required for all private vehicles operated by park employees and residents to enter the park.
- Vehicles must be registered and permits affixed to the vehicle within seven days of bringing a vehicle into the park.
- Permits can be obtained at the Park Fee Office.
- Vehicle owners must have valid registration and proof of insurance for vehicles operated within the park.
- Employee vehicle permits are valid only while the person is employed/lives within the park and must be surrendered upon termination of employment.
- Permits are vehicle-specific and non-transferable; a new permit is required for each vehicle registered

36 CFR §2.35 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed:

Indoor Areas:

- Public use buildings, except in food service areas in the Jackson Visitor Center and Sunrise Day Lodge, and the public areas in the following locations:
 - Paradise Inn
 - National Park Inn
- All NPS administrative buildings and work areas.

Determining Factors: These open areas are established to provide indoor locations where responsible consumption of alcohol can occur within the shelter of specific park buildings. The consumption of alcoholic beverages, or possession of open containers of alcoholic beverages, would be inappropriate and inconsistent with the intended uses of these other areas.

Outdoor Areas:

- Paradise Snow Play Area
- Campground amphitheaters at Cougar Rock, Ohanapecosh, and White River

Determining Factors: This restriction is to avoid visitor conflicts, provide for visitor safety in areas heavily used by families and children, and help prevent injuries to all park visitors.

36 CFR §2.51 – DEMONSTRATIONS

(b) Permits and the small group permit exception.

- Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR §2.51 are not required to have a permit.

(c)(2) The following locations are designated by the superintendent as available for demonstrations and associated activities within Mount Rainier National Park:

Longmire:

- 20' x 20' area directly in front of the Old Longmire Gas Station (L260)

Cougar Rock:

- The Cougar Rock Campground Amphitheater

Paradise:

- 20' x 20' area at the southeast corner of the Jackson Visitor Center (JVC) (corner of building to the left of the main entrance)

Ohanapecosh:

- 20' x 20' area at the north end of the Ohanapecosh Visitor Center parking lot
- The Ohanapecosh Campground Amphitheater

White River:

- 20' x 20' area at the west end of the parking lot just after the White River Entrance Station
- The White River Campground Amphitheater

Sunrise:

- 20' x 20' area adjacent to the northwest end of the parking lot

Carbon River:

- 20' x 20' area at the northwest end of the parking lot just before the Ranger Station

- Maps and further details are available in Appendix A and on the Park's website (see [Special Use Permits](#)).
- To ensure protection of park resources, participants and visitors, no objects may extend beyond the perimeter of the designated area or more than 10 feet above the designated area.
- These locations are available by permit, or for small groups as noted above, for public assemblies and meetings when not being used by the NPS.

36 CFR §2.52 - SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

(b) Permits and the small group permit exception.

- Groups of 25 or less meeting all the conditions listed in 36 CFR §2.52 are not required to have a permit.
- The following locations are designated by the superintendent as available for the sale or distribution of printed matter within Mount Rainier National Park per §2.51(c)(2):

Refer to the list and information under 2.51 (c)(2) above.

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains, or in the following designated areas without a permit, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

- A permit is required for scattering ashes in all areas of the park (see [Special Use Permits](#) on the park website: <https://www.nps.gov/mora/playourvisit/permitsandreservations.htm>).
- The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized.
- The scattering of remains by persons on the ground is to be performed at least 300' (100 yds) from any trail, road, developed area or flowing stream, river or other body of water with the following exceptions:
 - Cremated remains are not allowed within 0.5 (1/2) miles of Tipsoo Lakes and Reflection Lakes.
- The scattering of remains from the air is to be performed at a minimum altitude of 2,000' above the ground.
- No scattering of remains from the air is to be performed over developed areas, facilities or bodies of water.
- Scattering on the ground must result in complete dispersal of ashes so that no obvious piles remain in any one place. No containers/urns are to be left behind or buried.

36 CFR §3.16 – SWIMMING and WADING

(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and wading:

- Tipsoo Lakes
- Reflection Lakes
- Frozen Lake
- Ghost Lake
- Shadow Lake

- Edith Creek Basin above the Paradise water supply
- Klickitat Creek above the White River water supply
- Laughingwater Creek above the Ohanapecosh water supply

36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

(a) Park roads open for travel by motor vehicle are those indicated below and/or as indicated in the following publication or document:

- The Mount Rainier National Park Official Map and Guide, except for seasonal closures identified on the website and the quarterly Tahoma News published each quarter.
- During winter periods when overnight road traffic to Paradise is restricted by closed gates, vehicles parked overnight must be in the designated overnight parking areas at Paradise, Narada Falls or Longmire. Overnight parking in all other areas along the Nisqually to Paradise Road must be with prior approval by a park ranger.

Determining Factors: This is necessary to prevent damage to vehicles and provide for the safety of equipment operators by maintaining clear access for morning snow plowing and to provide accountability for unoccupied vehicles behind closed gates overnight.

36 CFR §4.11 – VEHICLE LOAD, WEIGHT and SIZE LIMITS

(a) The following load, weight and size limits, which are more restrictive than State Law, apply to the roads indicated under the terms and conditions, and/or permit as noted:

- The weight limit for the bridge over the Nisqually River at Longmire is 20,000 pounds (10 tons).

36 CFR §4.21 – SPEED LIMITS

(b) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:

- The maximum park speed limit is 45 mph. Other speed limits are as stated in 36 CFR 4.21(a) and as posted.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

(a) Park roads and parking areas that are closed to bicycle use are listed in section 1.5 of this document.

The following additional routes, in developed areas or special use zones, have been designated for bicycle use:

- On the designated trail from the Carbon River Entrance to Ipsut Creek Campground.
- On the Westside Road to Klapatche Point.

Determining Factor: Both of these routes were once public roads and their use by bicyclists is consistent with the park's goals and objectives for visitor enjoyment and resource protection.

36 CFR §7.5 – MOUNT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK SPECIAL REGULATIONS

FISHING

(a)(1) The following waters are closed to fishing:

- (a)(1)(i) Tipsoo Lakes.
- (a)(1)(ii) Shadow Lake.
- (a)(1)(iii) Klickitat Creek above the White River Entrance water supply intake.
- (a)(1)(iv) Laughing Water Creek above the Ohanapecosh water supply intake.
- (a)(1)(v) Frozen Lake.
- (a)(1)(vi) Reflection Lakes.
- (a)(1)(vii) Ipsut Creek above the Ipsut Creek Campground water supply intake.

(a)(2) Except for artificial fly fishing, the Ohanapecosh River and its tributaries are closed to all fishing.

(a)(3) There shall be no minimum size limit on fish that may be possessed.

(a)(4) The daily catch and possession limit for fish taken from park waters shall be six pounds and one fish, not to exceed 12 fish.

CLIMBING AND HIKING

(b)(1) Registration with the Superintendent is required prior to and upon return from any climbing or hiking on glaciers or above the normal high camps such as Camp Muir and Camp Schurman.

(b)(2) A person under 18 years of age must have permission of his parent or legal guardian before climbing above the normal high camps.

(b)(3) A party traveling above the high camps must consist of a minimum of two persons unless prior permission for a solo climb has been obtained from the Superintendent or his/her designee. The Superintendent or designee will consider the following points when reviewing a request for a solo climb: The weather prediction for the estimated duration of the climb, and the likelihood of new snowfall, sleet, fog, or hail along the route, the feasibility of climbing the chosen route because of normal inherent hazards, current route conditions, adequacy of equipment and clothing, and qualifying experience necessary for the route contemplated.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

(c)(1) Backcountry camping permits required.

- No person or group of persons traveling together may camp in the backcountry without a valid backcountry camping permit. Permits may be issued to each permittee or to the leader of the group for a group of persons. The permit must be attached to the pack or camping equipment of each permittee in a clearly visible location. No person may camp in any location other than that designated in the permit for a given date.

(c)(2) Group size limitations.

Groups exceeding five persons must camp at a group site, but groups may not exceed twelve persons. The Superintendent may, however:

- (c)(2)(i) Waive group size limitations on routes in the climbing zone when he determines that it will not result in environmental degradation; and

- (c)(2)(ii) Establish special zones and group size limitations during the winter season to balance the impact of cross-country skiers, snowshoers, and snowmobilers on the resource.

SNOWMOBILE USE

(d)(1) Designated routes.

- (d)(1)(i) That portion of the West Side Road south of Round Pass.
- (d)(2)(ii) The Mather Memorial Parkway (State Route 410) from its intersection with the White River Road north to the park boundary.
- (d)(2)(iii) The White River Road from its intersection with the Mather Memorial Parkway to the White River Campground.
- (d)(2)(iv) The Cougar Rock Campground road system.
- (d)(2)(v) The Stevens Canyon Road from Stevens Canyon Entrance to the Stevens Canyon Road tunnel at Box Canyon.

- END -